

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 02158 01 OF 02 131834Z

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1729

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BOGOTA 2158

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OVIP CO

SUBJ: FONMIN'S REACTION TO TLATELOLCO AND SUGGESTIONS FOR
WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 47941

PRIOR TO FONMIN VAZQUEZ' DEPARTURE FOR VENEZUELA, I GAVE HIM
TEXT OF SECRETARY'S LETTER CONTAINED REFTEL. VAZQUEZ ACCEPTED
INVITATION WITH PLEASURE AND SAID HE WILL BE DELIGHTED TO
EXCHANGE OPINIONS WITH THE SECRETARY. WE THEN LAUNCHED INTO AN
EXTENSIVE DIALOGUE WHICH MAY BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS.

1. COLOMBIA HAS THE GREATEST DESIRE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS
OF THE "NEW DIALOGUE" AND FOR THAT REASON BELIEVES IT ESSENTIAL
THAT THE RESULTS OF THE NEXT CONFERENCE SHOULD BE MUCH MORE

PRECISE AND CONCRETE THAN THOSE REACHED AT THE CONFERENCE OF
TLATELOLCO. THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE MEXICO MEETING WAS NOT
AS PRECISE AS MIGHT HAVE BEEN HOPED ON SUCH MATTERS AS
COMMERCIAL PREFERENCES -- WHICH THE DEVELOPED NATIONS HAVE AGREED
IS NECESSARY FOR THE DEVELOPING NATIONS. ALTHOUGH THIS WAS BUT
THE FIRST MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS, IT IS NECESSARY TO
RECOGNIZE FRANKLY THAT THE COMMUNIQUE OF TLATELOLCO DID NOT
REPRESENT, IN ITSELF, AN ADVANCE IN HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA.

2. ON CONVOKING A NEW CONFERENCE OF FONMINS IN WASHINGTON WE MUST
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 02158 01 OF 02 131834Z

THINK IN TERMS OF A (UNDERLINE) CONFERENCE OF DECISIONS. (END)

UNDERLINE). THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE WHICH THE MINISTERS OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE AS A PRIORITY ITEM SHOULD BE INVESTED WITH THE CHARACTER OF A FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF JOINT US-LATIN AMERICAN POLICIES COVERING CONCRETE TOPICS. THE COMMUNIQUE OF TLATELOLCO IS UNDERSTANDABLE IF IT IS CONSIDERED AS THE FIRST OF THE MEETINGS UNDER THE "NEW DIALOGUE". THIS EXPLANATION COULD NOT BE REUSED IN SUCCEEDING CONFERENCES. WE MUST THEREFORE SHOW LATIN AMERICA THAT THE "NEW DIALOGUE" IS NOT MERELY A VERBAL PLATFORM BUT RATHER A METHOD OF CONCERTING POLICIES AND DEFINING CRITERIA BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA AND THE UNITED STATES. IF IT IS NOT THAT, THE "NEW DIALOGUE" COULD LOSE MUCH OF ITS REAL IMPORTANCE.

3. AMONG THE MATTERS THAT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IMMEDIATELY IS TOPIC FIVE OF THE PROGRAM AGREED TO IN BOGOTA - "THE STRUCTURE OF INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE AND THE MONETARY SYSTEM". THIS TOPIC IS CLOSELY RELATED TO TOPICS ONE AND TWO, WHICH ADDRESSED "CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT" AND "COERCIVE MEASURES OF AN ECONOMIC NATURE". BUT IS ITSELF IMPORTANT.

TOPIC FIVE ENCOMPASSES THE QUESTIONS WHICH ARE PENDING FOR THE NATIONS OF LATIN AMERICA IN THEIR EFFORT TO AGREE UPON JOINT POLICIES WITH THE UNITED STATES WITH A VIEW TO THE FORTHCOMING MULTILATERAL GATT NEGOTIATIONS. THE COMMUNIQUE OF TLATELOLCO WAS LACKING IN THIS REGARD AS IT DID NOT CONTAIN REFERENCES WHICH COULD SATISFY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA.

IN THIS CONTEXT, WE MUST NOT FORGET THE FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS:

A) THE TERMS OF TRADE OPERATE IN FAVOR OF THE UNITED STATES AND LEAVE LATIN AMERICA WITH A COMMERCIAL DEFICIT THEREBY ADDING TO A GROWING INDEBTEDNESS OF THE NATIONS OF THIS REGION;

B) THE ORGANIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE REQUIRES PROFOUND CHANGES TO MAKE IT CORRESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS IN GENERAL AND PARTICULARLY THOSE OF LATIN AMERICA WHICH, UNLIKE THE AFRICAN NATIONS, ARE NOT TIED TO A LARGE PREFERENTIAL MARKET;

C) MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD HAVE AS ONE OF THEIR PRIMARY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 02158 01 OF 02 131834Z

OBJECTIVES TO EXPAND AND DIVERSIFY WORLD COMMERCE AND GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO DEVELOPING NATIONS. IN THIS CONTEXT PRIOR NEGOTIATION BETWEEN US AND LATIN AMERICA IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT. ONE MATTER WHICH IS OF SPECIAL CONCERN CURRENTLY IS THE PROBLEM OF INFLATION. THE POSITION PRESENTED IN MEXICO BY ARGENTINA ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONS THAT HAD STUDIED TOPIC FIVE OFFERS AN APPROPRIATE BASIS OF DISCUSSION OF THIS PROBLEM.

3. IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DISCOURAGING FOR COLOMBIA AND MANY OTHER COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA IF QUESTIONS OF COMMERCE AND THE MONETARY SYSTEM WERE NOT ADEQUATELY EXAMINED IN THE NEXT CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON.

4. THE REFORM TO RESTRUCTURE THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM INITIATED IN APRIL 1973 HAS NOT HAD THE EXPECTED RESULTS. EVERYTHING INDICATES THAT THE SPECIAL COMMISSION STILL NEEDS MORE TIME BEFORE REACHING FINAL CONCLUSIONS. THIS REFORM WAS INITIATED WITH NEITHER A PREVIOUS STUDY NOR A WORK PLAN AND THE DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN CENTERED ON THE FIRST ARTICLES OF THE CHARTER. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE EXISTS NO CONSENSUS ABOUT HOW TO DEAL WITH THE PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEMS. IT HAS PROVED IMPOSSIBLE FOR EXAMPLE TO DEVELOP JOINT TEXTS ABOUT REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY. IT WOULD BE MORE PROFITABLE TO STUDY THOSE STRUCTURAL ASPECTS THAT COULD PUT AN END TO THE PARALYSIS AND STAGNATION OF THE ORGANIZATION AND PROVIDE FOR A PROGRAM OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COOPERATION. IMPORTANT ASPECTS WHICH SHOULD RECEIVE PRIORITY TREATMENT INCLUDE:

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 02158 02 OF 02 131840Z

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1730

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BOGOTA 2158

A) THE TYPE OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COOPERATION WHICH IT IS DESIRABLE TO DEVELOP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA;

B) HOW TO STRUCTURE THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THIS COOPERATION AND IF THE ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS SHOULD BE PROLONGED;

C) THE PROBLEM OF COORDINATION AMONG THE THREE COUNCILS OF THE ORGANIZATION;

D) THE POLITICAL CAPACITY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS THE SUPREME ORGAN OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES.

COLOMBIA HAS SOME VIEWS ON THESE CONCERNS WHICH IT IS READY TO SUBMIT FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE UNITED STATES, EITHER AT THE WASHINGTON OR ATLANTA CONFERENCES WHICHEVER IS DEEMED ADVISABLE. THESE ARE PROBLEMS WHICH SHOULD NOT BE POSTPONED ANY FURTHER. IT IS NOW OVER A YEAR SINCE THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON THE ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS, DR CARLOS SANZ DE SANTAMARIA, RESIGNED AND RECOMMENDED REFORMS FOR INTER-AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COOPERATION.

COLOMBIA WOULD NOT INSIST THAT THE REFORM OF THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATION BE DISCUSSED AT THE CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS BUT DOES WISH TO SIGNAL THE EXISTENCE OF A PROBLEM WHICH MUST BE STUDIED WITHIN THE SHORTEST PERIOD IF WE WISH TO AVOID FURTHER DETERIORATION OF THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATION.

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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 02158 02 OF 02 131840Z

5. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE "NEW DIALOGUE" BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA AND THE UNITED STATES DEVELOP OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES. IN THIS FORM WE WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN THE COOPERATION OF COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE BAHAMAS AND GUYANA WHICH ARE NOT YET PART OF THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATION. IF FOR ANY REASON THE CONFERENCES OF THE "NEW DIALOGUE" BECOME CONFUSED WITH THE ORGANISMS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM, THEY WILL LOSE THEIR RAISON D'ETRE. THE CONFERENCES OF THE "NEW DIALOGUE" CAN BE THE POLITICAL FRAMEWORK OF THE FUTURE TO ACHIEVE COLLABORATION WITH OTHER AMERICAN STATES THAT ARE NOT PART OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES OR DO NOT WISH TO BECOME A PART OF IT. CANADA, FOR EXAMPLE, IS AN AMERICAN NATION WITH CLOSE ECONOMIC TIES TO LATIN AMERICA BUT WHICH DOES NOT THINK OF ASSOCIATING ITSELF WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM AS IT IS CONSTITUTED AND FUNCTIONS TODAY. BUT IT IS CERTAINLY POSSIBLE TO IMAGINE THAT THIS NATION AND OTHERS OUTSIDE THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE FUTURE IN THESE CONFERENCES TO EXAMINE CONCRETE PROJECTS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OR FINANCIAL COLLABORATION IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

6. THE FOREIGN MINISTER EMPHASIZED AGAIN THAT UNLESS CONCRETE PROGRESS TOWARDS SOLUTIONS BEGIN AT WASHINGTON THEN THE "NEW DIALOGUE" WILL NOT ACHIEVE THE NEW CONTINENTAL POLICY WE ARE ALL STRIVING FOR. THE "NEW DIALOGUE" WILL EITHER SURVIVE AS A SERIES OF FRIENDLY BUT INEFFECTIVE CONTACTS OR IT WILL BECOME THE VEHICLE OF A MAJOR NEW POLICY.

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